

Finance Committee Minutes

October 24th 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:05PM. Present were Mr. Edgar Zukauskas, Mr. David Herrick, Mr. Burt Imberman, Mr. Ira Yohalem, Mr. Mark Carson, and Mrs. Prudence Spaulding. Mr. Michael Skorput, Ms. Tara White, and Mr. Nathaniel Yohalem were guests.

The minutes for August 8th 2013 were accepted as read, Mr. Herrick 1st, Mr. Ira Yohalem 2nd passed unanimously.

The purpose of the meeting was to review warrant for the Special Town Meeting to be held on Monday November 18th 2013 at 7:00PM.

Article 1 this article concerned the borrowing of \$180,000 for the purpose of making repairs to the Clayton Mill River Road/Bridge/Culvert. This bridge/culvert does not qualify for state aid, and is in desperate need of repair. It has a steel cover and is now one way. The road it services is a main road from Mill River to Canaan. Originally it was thought that its repair or replacement would cost upwards of \$400,000. However the plan now is to repair it and the repaired bridge/culvert should last as long as a new bridge and be far more reasonable

There was some discussion about borrowing the money when after the spring town meeting there may be other items that will need borrowed money and perhaps should be lumped together. The purpose of obtaining the town's people's vote at this time was to allow the borrowing when the bridge/culvert can be fixed. The hope is that the bridge/culvert will be fixed in early spring perhaps before the regular town meeting. The method of obtaining the money for the bridge/culvert is the treasurer's responsibility. Added to this Mr. Skorput stated that the money for some of the other items outside 2 ½ such as trucks will be borrowed for only 5 years, but this loan will be borrowed for 7 or 10 years.

The Finance Committee voted to recommend Article 1 Mr. Imberman 1st, Mr. Ira Yohalem 2nd passed unanimously.

Article 2 this article concerns the transfer of \$1,562 from the Group Insurance Account into the Workman's Compensation Account. The estimate given by MIA in the spring was incorrect Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Imberman 2nd passed unanimously.

Article 3, the town has received some outstanding and unexpected bills and is requesting to transfer \$40,000 out of Free Cash to cover these bills rather than increase the tax rate. Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Imberman 2nd passed unanimously.

Article 4 this article allows the town to transfer the sum of \$1,022 from Free Cash to correct an error in the Tax Collector's salary. Mr. Imberman 1st, Mr. Ira Yohalem 2nd passed unanimously.

Article 5 when a town clerk becomes certified the sum of \$1000 is added to his/her yearly salary (Mass General Laws Chapter 41, Section 10 K). Our town clerk became certified after ¼ of the fiscal year had passed, so the selectmen would only add \$750 to this year's salary. However, Mr. Zukauskas remembered that when the town clerk had obtained her job she had been hired at the salary that the previous town clerk had been receiving and that sum had included the \$1000 a year certification amount. Thus the committee voted not to recommend an additional \$1000 certification bonus since the salary had already included it. Mr. Zukauskas 1st, Mr. Herrick 2nd passed unanimously.

Article 6 the sum of \$30,000 was requested as a transfer from Free Cash to pay for the repairing of the culvert on Brewer Hill. Mr. Imberman 1st, Mr. Ira Yohalem 2nd passed unanimously.

Article 7 related to the new by-laws and since there was no money involved the Committee was not required to recommend or not recommend this article.

The meeting adjourned at 7:49.

Respectfully submitted,

Prudence Spaulding, Secretary.

Prudence Spaulding
October 24th 2013